



# Freedom In Christ Church

## Newsletter

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Miry Clay

By Sister Leah Hockenberry

Psalms 40:1-3 NLT 1) I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. 2) He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. 3) He has given me a song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD.

If you just read that passage and didn't shout for joy, I'm convinced it would have been for one of two reasons, possibly, even both. First being, you have yet to grasp this account in its full intent! Second reason being, you yourself are stuck in the sticky mess of miry clay. King David shared with us his most intimate time in prayer with the Lord, Most High. The very same God that King David served is the same God we serve today. Through King David's vulnerability and transparency, we can see that he was stuck right in the middle of something troubling that he wanted out of. He cried out to the Lord and waited patiently, trusting and full of praise, and the Lord heard his cry! Not only did the Lord lift him up out of the miry clay, but He set his feet on solid ground and gave him a firm place to stand.

Mire (noun): 1. A stretch of swampy or boggy ground. Soft and slushy mud. 2. A situation or state of difficulty, distress or embarrassment from which it is hard to extricate (free) oneself. Which definition of the word "mire" do you think King David was referencing in the passage above? The beauty and the power of a spiritual metaphor or analogy is both visual and relational to that of the mind. Are you able to visualize a man stuck in the mud, unable to move? That is what it's like for us, spiritually, to be stuck in the miry clay. Miry clay, spiritually speaking, refers to traps set by the enemy to keep you stuck. If you are stuck in place, you cannot move when the Lord moves. Your growth is stunted and your roots will rot, producing no fruit. Miry clay may be different for everyone. I will provide some contextual examples, in hopes that you may be able to better identify miry clay in your own life, so that you, too, may cry out to the Lord and be delivered and your feet set on solid ground.

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Worry/fear/anxiety: The enemy works through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Worry causes fear, fear causes anxiety. This is a trap the enemy has set out ahead for all of us to happen upon, most likely every day. Fear is the opposite of faith, often times standing between us and the very thing we are praying for. When we listen to the voice of the enemy, we fall into these traps and get stuck in the miry clay. If you have ever been stuck in miry clay that looks like this, you know how suffocating it can feel, but God's Word promises us peace that passes all understanding and life to the fullest. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to identify these specific traps set by the devil sent to steal, kill and destroy. Once you are able to identify the traps you will then be able to avoid them. The Bible tells us to cast down every thought and imagination that goes against God's Word. All throughout the Bible we are instructed to refrain from worry, cast down all fear and be anxious for nothing. (John 14:27, Josh. 1:9, Matt. 6:34, Psalms 27:1, 1 Pet. 5:6-7, Isa. 41:10, Phil. 4:7 2 Cor. 10:5)

Offense/anger/bitterness: Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. - Proverbs 10:12 I believe this is one trap Satan loves to set for believers, maybe even more than all the others. If he can present us with the opportunity to take offense, and we take the lure and fall into the trap, he would have us right where he wants us. We then become angry and grow bitter. The number one commandment as followers of Jesus Christ is to love. When we love, we are living in the perfect will of God. The Bible tells us that if we love, we know God, but if we do not have love, we do not know God. Offense, anger and bitterness make us powerless. We lose the ability to move on in the will of God. All power comes through God, through the name of Jesus Christ, who IS love. The Bible cautions us to guard our hearts against these things. We are to be quick to forgive as we have been forgiven, quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. In Ephesians 4:26-27 we are told not to sin when we are angry and to never let the sun go down on our wrath (don't allow it to be carried into the next day). Peter tells us that anger gives a foothold to the devil. No born again, Holy Spirit filled believer wants that. If you are currently stuck in this area, I want to encourage you to spend some serious time in prayer and self-reflection. Study the living Word of God on this matter and lay it at the Father's feet. Free yourself from the foothold of the devil and the Lord will deliver you from the miry clay. (Matt. 22:34-40 1 Cor. 13:4-5, James 1:19, Prov. 14:29, Prov. 12:16, Prov. 20:3,

Lack of knowledge: The Bible says that God's people will be destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Spiritual death can come from failing to grow into a mature believer. Many believers come to know the Lord and accept Jesus Christ into their hearts, but never grow to their full potential in Christ. They become content and complacent with their new found access to Heaven's gates, but God has called us to a life that is so much more than that. He wants us to thrive in His promises and receive all the gifts of the Kingdom while here on this earth. We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to spread the

Good News throughout the earth. When we become born again believers, our life is no longer ours. We are to do all things for the glory of God. How can we do this if we neglect to gain and retain the knowledge of God's word and how the Lord instructs for us to live? On that same note, how can we identify traps of the enemy if we have yet to gain that understanding and knowledge? It is our responsibility to make the Word of God our firm foundation. The Bible tells us to meditate on the Word day and night. The Word of God is living, breathing and active. Arm yourself with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Use the Word of God to be freed from the miry clay. (Josh. 1:8, Eph 6:17, Hosea 4:6, Heb. 4:12, Mark 16:15)

By now, surely you are shouting with joy and singing a new tune of hallelujah from the song that has been put in your heart. The song of praise! Our God is great and worthy of all praise. He hears our cries and He turns to us. He takes us from the miry clay and sets our feet on solid ground. If you haven't picked up on this yet, the Word of God - is the solid ground. Our firm foundation. Let your lives be a living testimony for He is good and all will see the great work He has done in you. They, too, will turn to the Lord and proclaim His goodness to the ends of the earth.



## **The Ping**

### **Pastor John Pogue**

**An aircraft has the famous black box that sounds a ping. If the aircraft goes down, the ping continues to sound. It continues to ping because it is made to be found. God put a ping in you! In your life, you might have crashed. As much as you might try to deafen the ping sound, you can still hear it. You may barely hear it, because you have tried to ignore it. Some people may have convinced you that there is no God, but the ping continues to sound. It sounds because you are made to be found!**

**Realizing that he would soon be gone from this world one day, Moody said to a friend. "Someday you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of Northfield is dead. Don't you believe a word**

of it. "At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone higher, that is all—out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal, a body that sin cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a body fashioned like His glorious body. I was born in the flesh in 1837; I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die; that which is born of the Spirit will live forever."

God made the way through his Son Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14:6. It's up to people to decide where they will spend eternity. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16. No one can earn their way to heaven, salvation is a GIFT FROM GOD to those who accept His Son as their Lord and Savior. "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God" Ephesians 2:8. The ground is level at the cross, there are no braggers in heaven. Everyone has sinned and no one is good enough on their own merit to inherit eternal life. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for the sins OF ALL PEOPLE. Now anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ" Ephesians 5:21.

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### Look what God has done!

Many of you have already walked my journey with me, but within the past 2 weeks I have been given another miracle. The medicine that I take affects the rest of my body so they monitor my blood levels at least once a month. Approximately 6 weeks ago while checking my blood levels the doctors discovered that my thyroid levels were out of line. Three weeks ago, I talked to an endocrinologist for follow-up care. He wanted to see what side effects I have been having and I told him none. He didn't understand so he

recommended to continue to monitor the levels. The levels that they have been checking did not fix themselves so they scheduled an ultrasound on my thyroid. During the service of July 5 Pastor John spoke about and reminded everyone that the healing is here. You just need to accept it. As I was accepting my healing a verse came to my soul... Isaiah 53:5 "For He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes we are healed." I knew prior to going to NIH on July 8 that the ultrasound would be normal. So, on the morning of the 8th I traveled to NIH to receive my treatment and ultra sound. By the end of that day I was walking out of the hospital with another miracle, the thyroid was normal and was performing normal. Once again, the doctors looked at me and was confused how my body was doing the things that it was doing.

## Testimony by Brother Jeff Barnes



### Kidz Korner

Freedom In Christ Church offers first class children's programs for all ages! Baby Sparkz Nursery: Children ages newborn to 3 years of age - Baby Sparkz Nursery is available for our Sunday morning and Wednesday night services and includes a toddler class for ages 4-5 on Sunday mornings. Both age groups of little ones will be taught the basic fundamentals of knowing and loving God through creative and fun ways designed to keep the children's attention and make a lasting impact. All while experiencing an atmosphere of Christ like love and a spirit of excellence. Nursery Director: Sister Inayah Pogue Program for ages 4-5: Sister Lisa Daywalt

Kidz Igniting: Sunday morning services provide the amazing Kidz Igniting Program for children ages 6-12. Pastor Dane Pogue uses the creative and exciting program, Kid Nation, to captivate our children's minds and teach them the powerful Word of God. Kidz Igniting services feature a keynote presentation, skits, games and ticket incentives with opportunities to win prizes every week. Kidz Igniting is also available during our Wednesday night service. Our Wednesday night Kidz Igniting Program is taught by a team of four teachers. Children's Pastor: Pastor Dane Pogue Wednesday Night Teachers: Sister Marsha Williams, Brother Randy and Sister Sherry Miller, and Sister Debbie Best

Passion Youth Group: Hosted in the upstairs portion of Pastor John and Sister Leslie's home for ages 13-18. Passion Youth Group offers a smaller setting with a warm and



welcoming environment. We have air hockey and foosball tables and a hangout area to relax and fellowship. Pastor Dane preaches the truth in love to our youth and tackles the biggest and most challenging issues we face today. Pastor Dane's approach of not holding back has changed the lives of many youth over the years. Passionate, powerful, enlightening and life changing services, week after week. Above all else, Pastor Dane is dedicated to teaching the Word of God and how to know God, love God and experience God. Youth Pastor: Pastor Dane Pogue

As Freedom In Christ Church continues to grow, so does Kidz Igniting, praise the Lord! We are building a team of Support Staff for both Kidz Igniting and our Baby Sparkz. If you are interested in joining this incredible team, contact to Pastor Dane or Sister Inayah.

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## **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. FAITH IS NOT HOPING THAT WE WILL SEE THE ANSWER IN THE FUTURE; FAITH IS BELIEVING THAT WE HAVE THE ANSWER NOW.


TRUE OR FALSE

2. WE CAN ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD BOLDLY BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN MADE RIGHTEOUS THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

TRUE OR FALSE

3. COMPLETE THIS VERSE; THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO \_\_\_ AND \_\_\_ AND \_\_\_; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE \_\_\_, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL. JOHN 10:10 (NIV)

ANSWERS AT THE END



**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11**

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **On The Wall Prayer**

**Every Saturday from 8AM-9AM**

### **First Friday Fellowship**

**Aug 7th @ 7 PM**

**Speakers Gary Izer  
and Valerie Conner**

### **Picnics**

**Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 10 AM**

**(Creek baptism)**

### **Pantry of Hope**

**Alma Walter director**

**Loose change Sunday**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month**

# **Church Yard sale and Chicken Barbeque**

**Sept. 5th 8AM**

**Food served at 10AM**

**Rain or Shine**

**We have folders with sermon notes, scriptures, Cd's  
From the Authority of the Believer series available:**

**I am your Ransom**

**Releasing Your Authority**

**God Gives Grace to the Humble**

**Confidence to Release Your Authority**

**You can find them at the church or message the  
church with your address and we'll send you a copy  
free of charge.**



## WAYS TO GIVE:

PAYPAL @ FREEDOMINCHRISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM

MAIL @ 4042 SYCAMORE GROVE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202

GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK. LUKE 6:38

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### **Answers:**

- 1. True**
- 2. True**
- 3. Steal, Kill, Destroy, Life**

MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO HE WILL DO ALSO; AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE HE WILL DO, BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER. AND WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, THAT I WILL DO, THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON. IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT.

JOHN 14:12-14 NKJV

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